

Message Text

PAGE 01 NEW DE 07419 311307Z

43

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /003 W

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R 311105Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3105

ELDON DUREN

3202 TOPHILL DRIVE

SAN ANTONIO TEXAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 7419

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF TELEGRAM

LINDA ARRIVES AMERICAN 602 AT 1600 JANUARY 6.

HAPPY NEW YEAR. WILDS.SAXBE

UNCLASSIFIED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 07419 02 OF 02 051534Z

45 40

ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-02 OMB-01 AGR-05 L-03 TRSE-00

SP-02 OES-03 EB-07 AID-05 /040 W

----- 060541

R 051142Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9059

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 7419

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

3. SINCE WE HAVE AT TIMES ACQUIESCED IN USE OF AIR INDIA FOR TRAVEL FINANCED OUT OF OUR RUPEE HOLDINGS, WE CANNOT INSIST TO THE GOI THAT ESTABLISHED PRACTICE DICTATES USE OF AMERICAN CARRIERS SOLELY. ON THE OTHER HAND A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF SUCH TRAVEL HAS BEEN PERFORMED ON AMERICAN CARRIERS WITH ACQUIESCENCE OF GOI, SO NEITHER CAN IT INSIST THAT PAST PRACTICE JUSTIFIES THE CONDITION IT NOW IS EXPLICITLY TRYING TO IMPOSE.

AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE EFFECT OF EITHER THE USG TRYING TO INSIST THAT ALL TRAVEL PERFORMED WITH USG RUPEES BE ON AMERICAN CARRIERS OR THE GOI TRYING TO INSIST THAT ALL TRAVEL WHICH IT MUST APPROVE BE PERFORMED ON AIR INDIA WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF STOPPING TRAVEL THAT REQUIRES APPROVAL OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

4. THE PROBLEM WE FACE, THEREFORE, IS TO TRY TO WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE GOI UNDER WHICH EACH COUNTRY'S CARRIERS GET AN ACCEPTABLE SHARE OF TRAVEL FINANCED WITH US-OWNED RUPEES. (USG TRAVEL ALWAYS APART SINCE WE WILL ALWAYS INSIST THAT IT BE PERFORMED ON AMERICAN CARRIERS).

5. TO DETERMINE THE MOTIVE OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY'S ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE A FLY-INDIAN CONDITION, AND TO SALVAGE THE TRIP OF THE WHEAT TEAM, WE HAVE TALKED WITH THE FINANCE MINISTRY. THE POSITION OF THE MINISTRY IS THAT IT WANTS AIR INDIA TO GET A "FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARE" OF THE TRAVEL. THE FINANCE MINISTRY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OFFICIAL SPECIFICALLY REMEMBERED THE SENTENCE FROM WATSON'S LETTER THAT "THE UNITED STATES WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAKE AS MUCH USE AS PRACTICABLE OF THE REGULAR AND CHARTER FLIGHT FACILITIES OFFERED BY AIR INDIA." WE EXPRESSED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE INDIAN POSITION AND SAID IT OFFERED HOPE FOR NEGOTIATING SOME FORM OF SHARING OF RUPEE-FUNDED TRAVEL. WHILE NOT YET PREPARED TO OFFER A NEGOTIATING POSITION ON THE LARGER PROBLEM, WE DID PROPOSE AN ARRANGEMENT FOR THE WHEAT TEAM UNDER WHICH A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE TRAVEL WOULD BE PERFORMED BY PANAM AND OTHER SUBSTANTIAL PORTION PERFORMED BY AIR INDIA. SPECIFICALLY WE PROPOSED THAT THE DELHI/HONG KONG PORTION BE PERFORMED ON PANAM, THAT HONG KONG/TOKYO BE PERFORMED ON AIR INDIA, THAT TOKYO/SAN FRANCISCO BE PERFORMED ON PANAM, THAT THE WASHINGTON/LONDON LEG OF TRAVEL BE PERFORMED ON PANAM, AND THE RETURN TO DELHI FROM LONDON ON AIR INDIA. THE FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED THIS ARRANGEMENT AND WHEAT TEAM GOES OFF ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7. (THIS ARRANGEMENT SHOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO PANAM, SINCE THE IDEA FOR IT WAS CONCURRED IN BY PANAM'S MARKETING MAANGER HERE.). THE FINANCE MINISTRY AND WE AGREED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD NOT SET A PRECEDENT, BUT WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF MUTUAL WILLINGNESS TO SOLVE A PARTICULAR PROBLEM AND AN INDICATION OF OUR MUTUAL INTENTION TO WORK OUT A LONGER RANGE SOLUTION TO THE UNDERLYING PROBLEM. WE SAID THAT WE WOULD SEEK WASHINGTON APPROVAL TO NEGOTIATE A SHARING ARRANGEMENT, AND WOULD BEGIN THINKING ABOUT DETAILS OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. WE URGED THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ALSO TO GIVE THE MATTER SOME THOUGHT.

6. WE REQUEST WASHINGTON AUTHORITY TO WORK OUT A SHARING ARRANGEMENT BASED ON PAST PRACTICE WITH THE INDIANS AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE THE DEPARTMENT CAN OFFER AS TO FORM SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT TO TAKE. WE HOPE THAT ANY ARRANGEMENT WILL BE REASONABLY

SELF-ADMINISTERING AND WILL NOT INVOLVE NEGOTIATING EACH AND
EVERY TRIP. THE FINANCE MINISTRY SHARES THIS HOPE WITH US.
SCHNEIDER

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